

Usborne Activity Cards



100 games toplay on holiday

Inside this fantastic pack of cards are 100 fun games to play on holiday. Just choose a card and follow the simple instructions.



To play this game, you'll need a soft ball, and lots of space. Agree the boundaries of your playing area, and choose someone to be the thrower.

1. The thrower stands still in the middle of the



 The thrower stands still in the middle of the playing area and everyone else runs around.



5 The thrower collects the ball and continues throwing until everyone's out. The last person to be out is the thrower in the next game. Piggy in the middle

Choose someone o be the piggy. The piggy stands in the middle of everyone else.

rveryone else.

Throw the ball back and forth, rving not to let the piggy catch it.

trying not to let the piggy catch i

1 Pass A 1 1 A

places with the person who threw it.

** Continue to play until

* Continue to play until everyone has been the piggy.

Bounce the ball to each other instead of throwing it.



£5.99 (inc. VAT)

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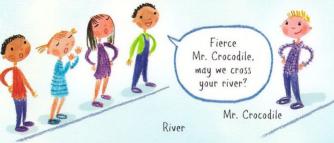
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Fierce Mr. Crocodile

Use chalk to draw two lines on the ground for a river. Then, choose someone to be Mr. Crocodile.

1 Mr. Crocodile stands in the river. The others all stand on one side of the river and ask.



2 Mr. Crocodile replies: Only if you're wearing something..., then says something such as ...red!

Anyone who's wearing what he said can walk across the river safely...



being 'tagged' (touched) by Mr. Crocodile.

3 Anyone who is tagged is out. The game continues in the same way, with Mr. Crocodile giving a different answer each time. The last person to be tagged wins and is the next Mr. Crocodile.

Running statue

Play this game in a big space. Choose someone

to be a statue.

1 One person stands in the middle of the space, and the statue runs around her until she shouts:







2 He instantly freezes where he is, like a statue.

The other person tries to make him move. She can't touch him, but can tell jokes, make noises or sing.



When the statue moves, play again, with the other person taking a turn at being the statue.

Race to base

Play this game in a big space. Agree the boundaries of the playing area, then draw a chalk line down the middle. Draw a base at each end, then form two teams. Each team has to guard their base.

1 Someone shouts Go! and the game begins:

Each person tries to get to the other team's base...



If someone manages to get there, they win a point for their team. Both teams go back to their own half and the game starts again...



2 Keep score as you play, and continue until one team has five points, or everyone agrees to stop playing.

Big fat spiders

1 Someone starts by asking a simple question, such as:

What do you like to eat for lunch?

2) Someone else replies:



Try not to laugh, because anyone who laughs is out.

 Someone else asks a question...

What do you brush your hair with?



4 ... and the next person replies:

Big fat spiders!

Everyone has to keep trying not to laugh.

5 Everyone takes turns to ask more questions. Each time, someone else has to answer Big fat spiders! The last person to laugh is the winner.



Talking scraps

For this game, you'll each need scraps of paper and a pen or pencil.

1 Each person writes a subject to talk about on a scrap of paper, then folds it twice. Someone mixes all the scraps together.

2 Someone takes a scrap and unfolds it. They have to talk about the subject on it for 30 seconds. They must not say *um*, leave long pauses, or repeat anything.

Some animals eat meat and some eat plants...



food
animals

pizza

hairy spiders

There are so many
animals in the world:
big elephants, little
tiny ants, um...

3 If someone notices a mistake, they challenge the talker. They take over from the talker and talk about the subject for the remaining time.

4 Whoever is talking at the end of 30 seconds gets one point. Everyone takes turns until all the scraps have been used. Whoever has the most points wins.

Beach target game

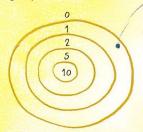
Play this game on a sandy beach.

1 Draw a line in damp sand with a stick, then find a pebble for each person.



2 Draw a small circle six paces from the line. Then, add three larger circles around it.

3 Everyone stands behind the line and takes turns throwing a pebble. You get points as follows:





Keep score in the sand: Anya /// Fred /// (write five like this: ///)

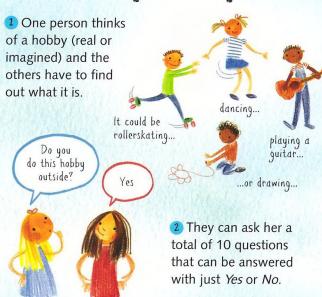
4 The first to 20 points wins.

Variation

If you're by yourself, keep trying to beat your highest score.



What's my hobby?



3 If someone thinks they know the hobby, they can guess, but the guess counts as a question. If they're correct, they win.

¶ If no one guesses the hobby, the person who thought of it wins.



Squish-squash

1 In this counting game, some numbers are replaced with *squish*, *squash* and *squish-squash*. You'll need to know your 3 and 5 times tables.



Numbers that can be divided by 3, such as: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, and so on.



Numbers that can be divided by 5, such as: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and so on.

Squish-squash

Numbers that can be divided by both 3 and 5, such as: 15 or 30.

Count up from 1, taking turns to say a number:



3 Continue for as long as you can. If anyone hesitates or makes a mistake, they're out:



Guess the tune

1 Someone thinks of a tune for the others to guess.



2 They hum the first line of the tune, and the others try to guess what it is. Each person has one guess:



3 If someone guesses correctly, it's their turn to think of a new tune. If not, the first person hums the first two lines from their tune:

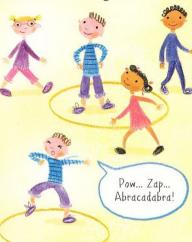


- 4 The game continues with a line being added each time, and the others trying to guess what the tune is.
- If no one's guessed after a whole verse or by the end of the tune, the humming person says what it is.

Magician's spell

Draw a circle on the ground with a chalk, or in sand on a beach. Agree the boundaries of the playing area, then choose someone to be the magician.

1 The magician stands still inside the circle and everyone else walks around it.



2 Suddenly, the magician jumps in the air and shouts:

3 The magician runs out of the circle and tries to 'tag' (touch) everyone. When someone is tagged, they have to freeze and stay in that position.



Continue playing until everyone has been tagged. Whoever was tagged first becomes the next magician.

Bouncing ball

To play this game, you'll need a ball.

1 One person starts by bouncing the ball once to someone else and they have to catch it.



- **5** When someone has five penalty points, they are out of the game.
- 6 The last person still playing is the winner.

Chasing shadows

Play this game in a big space on a bright sunny day.

1 Choose someone to be 'it'.



2 Everyone else runs around and 'it' tries to 'tag' (touch) them by stepping on their shadows.

3 If someone is tagged, they are out...



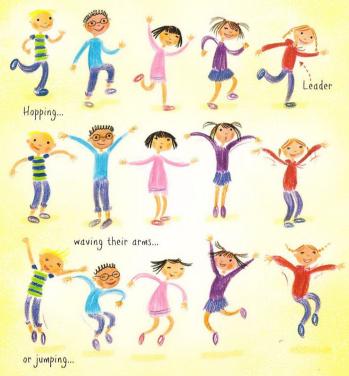
...and they stand out of the way while the game continues.

4 The game ends when 'it' has tagged everyone. In the next game, the first person who was tagged is 'it'.

Follow the leader

This game's really funny if lots of people are playing. Before you start, choose someone to be the leader.

1 Everyone stands in a line behind the leader. They have to copy what she does, such as:



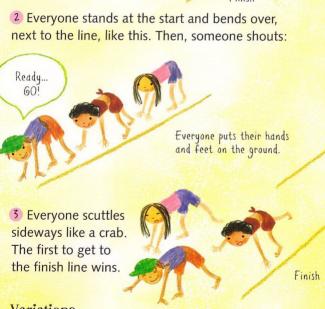
2 Anyone who doesn't copy an action correctly is out. The last person still playing is the next leader.

Scuttling crab race

Play this game on a sandy beach.

1 Draw two lines in the sand, about 20 paces apart.





Variations

- Backwards: try a backwards running race, but look over your shoulder, so that you don't fall over!
- Hopping: race on one leg.

Kick the can

Play this in a big space. Draw around an empty can on the ground with a chalk, and choose someone to be 'it'.

1 Everyone runs off to hide while 'it' stands next to the can and counts to 50, with her eyes shut.



2 When she gets to 50, she shouts *Here I come!*, then tries to find the hiders. This is what happens next:

The hiders try to get to the can and kick it before 'it' spots them. If a hider does this, he is safe and hides again while 'it' puts the can back in the circle...





If 'it' spots a hider, she races him to the can. If she gets there first, she kicks the can and shouts his name. He is caught, and has to put the can back and stand next to it...

...until another hider kicks the can and rescues him (and anyone else who has been caught). The rescuer replaces the can and they run off.

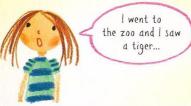




The game ends when 'it' has caught everyone at the same time. The last one to be caught is the next 'it'.

Animals in the zoo

1 Someone starts the game by saying:



2 The next person has to think of an animal that starts with the last letter of the animal that's been said.

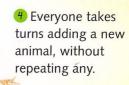


They repeat the sentence, adding their animal.

t s

I went to the zoo and I saw a rhino...

I went to the zoo and I saw an ostrich...



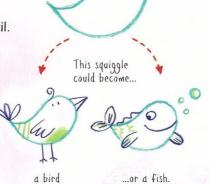
The game continues until someone can't think of an animal that follows on from the last one.

Squiggle drawings

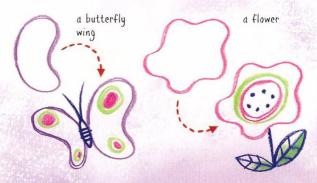
To play this game, you'll need some paper and pens and pencils. You could also play this on a beach by drawing in the sand.

1 One person draws a squiggle with a pen or pencil.

2 The other person uses a different pen or pencil to turn the squiggle into a drawing.



3 Take turns drawing a squiggle on the paper, then turning it into a drawing of something.



Group story

In this game, everyone contributes to a story, one sentence at a time. Try to make each sentence easy to follow with another one.

1 Someone starts by making up a sentence. It can be long or short.

In the darkness, she could see light glowing around the edges of a door...



As she crunched through the snow, Leila looked up and saw a tall stone tower...



2 Someone else adds another sentence.

5 Everyone takes turns adding a new sentence:

She crept up to the tower and tried the door handle.



Leila tiptoed inside.



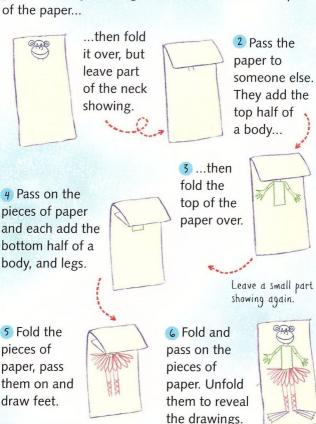




4 The person who ends the story starts a new one.

Picture consequences

1 Each person needs a strip of paper and a pen or a pencil. Start by drawing a head and neck at the top of the paper...



Spotting picture

For this game, you'll need paper, pens and pencils.

- 1 Take turns spotting between six and ten things around you and writing them in a list.
- 2 Then, each person draws a picture that includes everything on the list.

- a hairy dog
- a red umbrella
- a fluffy cloud
- a blue hat
- a bunch of roses
- a dark-haired girl
- 3 Have fun mixing everything up. Here are some pictures made from the list above:





Variation

If you are alone, make the list yourself.

No yes, no no

1 One person asks someone else a question that they would usually answer Yes or No:

Are you hungry?

1 dm, actually.

2 The other person has to answer without saying

3 The first person asks another question, and the second person answers without saying *Yes* or *No.*



Yes or No, or nodding or shaking their head.

The game continues until the second person makes a mistake and says *Yes* or *No*, or nods or shakes their head. Then it's their turn to ask questions.

Mixed-up faces

For this drawing game, each person needs a piece of paper and some pens or pencils.

1 Someone thinks of a kind of person, such as:



d princess...



a pirate...



a singer...



or a king ...



A princess's head...

2 Everyone draws a shape for that kind of person's head.

...with a singer's hair.

3 Someone else says another kind of person. Everyone adds that kind of hair to their drawings:





Add extra things, too, such as a cowboy's hat, or a queen's crown.

4 The game continues in the same way, like this:



an old man



ears

a fairy



a pirate



a mouth

a baby



5 Then, everyone shows their drawing to each other.

Ice Monster

For this game, you need to be near a wall. Choose someone to be the Ice Monster.

1 The Ice Monster stands facing the wall, with his back to everyone else...

Ice Monster



2 Suddenly, the Ice Monster turns around and shouts:

Monster

FREEZE!

else runs around behind him

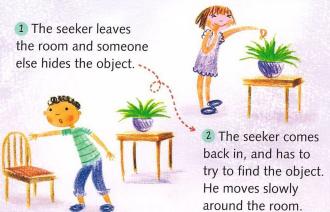
- Everyone else stops running and stands totally still, as if they're frozen.
- If the Ice Monster sees anyone move, they're out. Everyone has to stay still until he shouts Go! again.



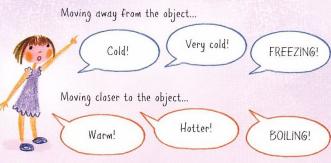
5 The Ice Monster faces the wall again, and the game continues. The last person still playing wins the game.

Hot and cold

Find a small object to play the game with, such as a coin or a stone, then choose someone to be the seeker.



3 Everyone calls out to help him to find the object. If he moves away from it, he gets 'colder', and if he moves closer to it, he gets 'warmer':



4 Continue calling out until the seeker finds the object.

Touch tag

For this game, you'll need a big space and lots of people. Agree the boundaries of the playing area, and choose someone to be 'it'. Then, play the game:



Play until everyone has been 'it', or everyone agrees that they want to stop playing.

Word catch

To play this game, you need a ball. WATER 1 One person thinks of a five-letter word to play the game with. 2 Both people take turns throwing the ball to each other 3 If someone drops or misses the ball. they get the first letter of the word: 4 Each time someone drops or misses the ball, they get another letter. WAT

5 If anyone gets all the letters in the word, they're out.

I spy

1 Someone looks for an object that everyone can see, but they don't tell the others what it is.



I spy with my little eye, something beginning with S...



2 They say I spy with my little eye, something beginning with... followed by the first letter of the object.





- 3 Everyone else takes turns guessing things that they can see that start with that letter.
- # The first person to guess correctly looks for a new object for everyone else to guess.

Variation

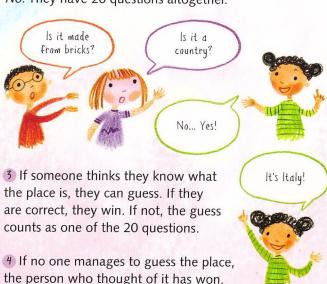
Give a word clue instead of a letter, such as: *I spy* with my little eye, something blue...

Where do I live?

1 Someone thinks of a place (not where they really live) for everyone else to try to guess. It could be:



2 Everyone else tries to guess the place, taking turns asking questions that can be answered *Yes* or *No.* They have 20 questions altogether.



Funny faces chain

To play this game, everyone has to be able to see each others' faces.

1 Someone makes a face, such as:



A big 'O' mouth ...

2 The next person makes the same face, then adds a new face of their own:



They make a big 'O' mouth...



...then blink their eyes twice.

3 Everyone takes turns adding a new face, making all the faces in the correct order:



Big 'O' mouth



Blinking eyes



Sad face

If someone makes the faces in the wrong order or forgets a face, they're out.

Musical statues

For this game, you need something that plays music. Choose someone to be the referee, who will also be in charge of the music.

1 The referee starts the music...
...and everyone else dances or moves around the room.

2 Suddenly, the referee stops the music and everyone else has to stand totally still, like a statue.



3 The referee looks to see if anyone is moving. The first person he sees moving is out.

The referee starts the music and everyone starts to move again.



5 The game continues until only one person is still playing. They become the referee in the next game.

Hopscotch

Hopscotch is a hopping game, played with a pebble. If you step on a line at any time, you have to start again. If two or more people are playing, they take turns. 1 Draw the grid on the ground with a chalk, then play the game: The grid Throw the pebble onto square 1. Hop over square 1, and land on 2 Hop again on one foot... and land with one foot on square 3 and one on 4... Hop onto 5, 6 and 7, then hop onto 8. Jump around, then hop back to 2. Pick up the pebblehop onto 1, then hop

If you make a mistake or put your other foot down, you have to start again.

2 Continue in the same way, throwing the pebble onto 2, then onto 3, then onto 4, and so on. Always hop over the square that the pebble is in.

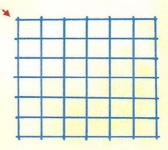
off the end of the grid.

3 Play until you have picked up the pebble from each of the squares on the grid.

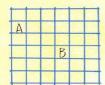
Line of four

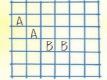
This game is played using a piece of paper and a pen.

1 Start by drawing seven lines across the paper, and seven lines down it, to make a grid:



2 Take turns writing your initials in a square.

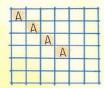






The winner is the first person to write their initials in a line of four squares.

Here are some of the ways to make a line of four:







Spotting game

Play this game in a busy place, such as a station or an airport. You'll need paper and pens or pencils.

1 Each person writes down three things that they might be able to spot where they are, such as:



When everything has been spotted, add up everyone's points. Whoever has the most points wins.

Word finder

Each person needs a piece of paper and a pen. The goal is to find words hidden inside a long word.

1 Someone thinks of a long word, and everyone writes it down.

2 Everyone has five minutes to write down as many words as they can, using only the letters in the long word:





and Van X

dreamy V dreamer X

All words have to be at least three letters long.

Only use each letter once in a word, unless it appears more than once.

The word 'daydreaming' contains these words...

dreamy red dame gem danger mad game rainy adder grand drama

...and many more.

- 3 After three minutes, everyone checks that they are happy that each others' words are real words.
- 4 Then, add up the scores. Whoever has the most points is the winner.

Three-letter words: 3 points Four-letter words: 4 points ...and so on.

One behind

The faster you play this game, the funnier it is.

1 Everyone sits or stands in a circle, and someone silently pretends to do an action, such as singing:

2 Whoever is next to them asks...



3 ...and they say something different from the action that they're actually doing.

The second person pretends to do what's just been said...

5 ...and the next person asks what she's doing.
She says any action other than the one that she's doing.

6 That person then does the action that she's said, and the game continues. If anyone does the wrong action, they're out.



I'm brushing

my hair.

Piggy in the middle

You can play this game with any kind of ball.

1 Choose someone to be the piggy. The piggy stands in the middle of everyone else.



2 Throw the ball back and forth, trying not to let the piggy catch it.



3 If the piggy catches the ball, she changes places with the person who threw it.

4 Continue to play until everyone has been the piggy.



Variation

Bounce the ball to each other instead of throwing it.

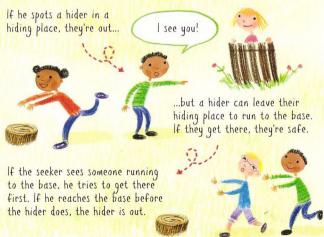
Hide-and-seek

Agree the boundaries of where you're going to play. Choose somewhere as a base, and choose a seeker.

1 The seeker stands at the base and counts to 30, with his eyes shut. Everyone else runs off to hide.



When the seeker has finished counting, he shouts Here I come, ready or not! and looks for the hiders.



The last person still hiding is the winner. The hider who was found first is the seeker in the next game.

Monster doodles

Each person needs some paper and pens, or you could play it by drawing in the sand on a beach.

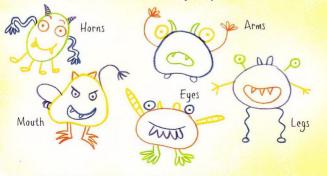
1 Each person draws a shape for a monster's body, then passes their paper to someone else.



2 Someone tells everyone what to draw next...



- 3 Everyone passes on their piece of paper, then someone else tells everyone what to draw next.
- 4 Continue the game with everyone adding to the monsters each time they're passed on:



Eat the alphabet

In this game, everyone adds to a list of foods in the order of the alphabet. Agree which letters are too hard (such as Q, X or Z) and leave them out.

1 Someone says that they're going to eat a kind of food that starts with an A:

I'm HUNGRY! I'm going to eat a banana.



I'm HUNGRY! I'm going to eat an <u>a</u>pricot.

2 The next person repeats the first part of the sentence, then adds a food beginning with B.

3 Someone else adds a food beginning with C, and the game continues with everyone taking turns:



If anyone can't think of a food that begins with the next letter, they're out.

What's the noise?

1 Someone thinks of a noise to make. It could be:











a police

a phone ringing...

a dog barking... a horse galloping... or a door creaking open...

2 They make the noise to someone else, using their mouth or hands. (If you're in a car, don't make sudden noises that will distract the driver.)

To make the sound of a police siren, make a "whoo-whoo" noise with your mouth:

For a horse galloping, you could clap your hands to make the sound of pounding hooves:



3 The other person tries to guess what the noise is.



If they are correct, they make the next noise. If not, they can continue guessing. If they decide to give up guessing, the first person can make another noise.

Endless questions

In this game, two people talk to each other and can only ask questions. Ask someone else to be a referee.



3 They take turns, and the referee listens closely. If anyone hesitates for too long or gives an answer that isn't a question, the referee tells them that they're out.

on logically from the first one, as quickly as they can.



4 Whoever is out first is the referee in the next game.

Down on one knee!

For this game, you need a ball. Stand a little way apart and take turns throwing the ball to each other. If anyone fails to catch the ball, this happens:



If someone drops the ball a fourth time, they're out. The last person still playing is the winner.

Ship to shore

In this game, everyone has to do what the captain says.

- 1 Draw a line in the sand on a beach or on the ground with a chalk. Then, choose a captain.
- 2) The captain stands at the end of the line and everyone else stands with a foot on each side of it.



The captain shouts Ship! or Shore! at random. Everyone has to jump to that side of the line.



If someone touches the line or goes the wrong way, they're out. The last person still playing is the winner.

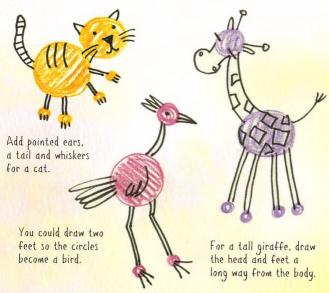
Animal circles

To play this game, each person needs a piece of paper and some pencils or pens.

1 Everyone draws a large circle for a body and fills it in. They add a circle for the head...



- 2 ... and four small circles for feet:
- 3 Everyone passes their paper to someone else, then they all use a pen to make the circles into animals:



Still as a statue

1 Choose someone to be a statue. The statue can stand or sit, and has to stay completely still.



② Everyone else tries to make the statue move. They're not allowed to touch her, but they can try:



3 When the statue moves, smiles or laughs, it's someone else's turn to be the statue

Tip

This game can be played in a car, but no one should shout or yell, or they'll distract the driver.

Treasure hunt

To play this, you'll need some paper and some pens.

1 Draw a big desert island with an X for the start and a circle for treasure.

Draw two palm trees, too.

2 One person puts a pen on the X and shuts his eyes. He draws a straight line and aims for the treasure:



3 The other person draws a line in the same way. Then, whoever is furthest from the treasure draws, with their eyes shut, a line from the end of their last line.



4 Continue until both people reach the treasure. Whoever drew the fewest lines wins.

Any lines that go into the sea count as two lines.



Walk like a robot

Play this game in a big space.

1 Everyone thinks of something that they're going to walk like. They don't tell the others what it is:



2 Then, everyone walks around in the style of whatever they've thought of.



4 If someone's walk is guessed correctly, they are out, and stop walking around. People can only guess while they are playing. The winner is the last person walking.

Lots of legs

Two people can play this game in a car, train or bus.

1 Each person looks out of a different side. Someone starts the game by saying Lots of legs! and both people try to spot legs, such as:



d person's legs...



the legs on a chair or table...



an animal's legs...



or legs on a sign...

2 Each time someone spots some legs, they call out:



Each person keeps a count of how many legs they see altogether.

3 The first person to spot 20 legs wins the game.

Wall ball

For this game, you need a wall to play against, and a small ball. Choose someone to be the thrower.

1 The thrower stands five paces from the wall, and everyone else stands in a line against it.



2 The thrower throws the ball at everyone else's legs, and they jump in the air to avoid it. If someone is hit below the knee, they change places with the thrower.



3 Continue until everyone has been the thrower.

Pass it on

For this game, you need a ball and something that plays music. Choose someone to be the music-maker.

1 Everyone else sits in a circle, and one person is given the ball. The music-maker starts the music.



2 The person with the ball very quickly passes it to the person next to them, and so on.



Pass the ball as quickly as you can.

- 3 At some point, the music-maker stops the music without warning.
- The person holding the ball is out. They give the ball to the person next to them and leave the circle. Then, the game continues.



5 The last person still playing is the winner.

Changing shapes

Each person playing this game needs a piece of paper and some pens or pencils.

1 Each person draws a shape, but doesn't reveal it.

Draw an outine or a filled-in shape:









² Everyone passes their paper to someone else. They all draw on the shape they've been given, to make it into something.

This shape could be turned into:



This shape could become:











a sail or ...

a silly hat

a monster or...

flames

3 Everyone shows each other what they've drawn. In the next game, everyone thinks of a different shape.

Dozing dogs

Play this game somewhere you can lie down safely.

1 Choose someone to be the trainer. Everyone else is a dozing dog. The dogs all lie totally still on the floor and pretend to be asleep.



2 The trainer walks around between the dogs, and tries to get them to move by making them laugh.



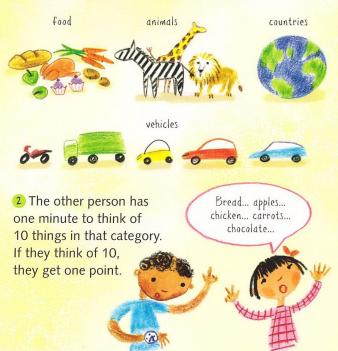
3 If a dog moves at all, he joins the trainer and tries to make the other dogs move.



The last dog still playing is the winner.

Think of 10

1 Someone thinks of a category of things, such as:



3 Each person takes turns thinking of a category. The first person to get five points wins.

Tip

'Food' is an easy category, because there are so many kinds of food. For a harder game, choose a category with fewer things in it, such as vegetables.

Sad face, happy face

1 In this counting game, some numbers are replaced with making sad and happy faces:



2 Everyone counts up from 1, taking turns saying a number or making a face:



3 Continue to take turns, and watch out for 57 and 75, because they contain both a 5 and a 7:



(4) If anyone hesitates or makes a mistake, they're out.

Hit the ship

Play this game on a sandy beach.

1 Draw a big ship in damp sand (see below), then add a line, six paces away. Find a pebble for each person, then stand behind the line.



The first person to get 10 points wins.

Variation

If you're by yourself, keep trying to beat your score.

Artist at work

For this drawing game, you'll need paper, and a pen or pencil. Choose someone to be the 'artist'.

1 The artist thinks of something to draw that won't be too easy for the others to guess.



2 The artist starts to draw the object, a shape at a time.

Start with a shape that could be part of something else:



Add more shapes, one at a time:





3 Everyone else tries to guess what they're drawing.

What could this be?



a robot...

a house on a hill...









4 The artist continues until someone guesses what they are drawing. The first to guess correctly is the next artist.



Mystery number

1 Someone thinks of a number between 1 and 100, and everyone else has to guess what it is.



2 They take turns asking questions that can be answered with Yes or No, such as:



Play again, with someone else thinking of a number.

Variations

Harder game: think of a number between 1 and 200.

Younger children: think of a number between 1 and 20.

What's the word?

1 One person thinks of a word that is three to six letters long.

2 The other person shuts their eyes and holds out a hand, with the palm facing up.

3 The first person uses a fingertip to slowly spell out the word on their friend's hand, one letter at a time.

The friend can try to guess the word at any time. If they're correct, they win. If not, the first person wins.





Say if you're

writing capital

or 'little' letters.

Stop the story

In this game, everyone tries to stop a story from being told. They take turns adding a word, and try to make it impossible for the next person to add one.

1 Someone starts by saying a word...

Thick...

2 ...then someone else adds another one:

3 The game continues in the same way, until someone is stuck and can't add a word:



Tip

If someone says a word that is hard to follow, words such as *but* or *and* can help to continue the story.



Simon says

Choose someone to be 'Simon'. Everyone else has to do what he says.

1 'Simon' tells everyone to do an action...



2 'Simon' tells everyone to do more actions.

If he doesn't start an instruction with Simon says, everyone should ignore him...



...and if anyone does the action, they're out.

The last person still playing is the winner and becomes 'Simon' in the next game.

French cricket

For this game, you'll need a tennis ball and a bat or a tennis racket. One person is the batter, and everyone else is a fielder

1 A fielder throws the ball and tries to hit the batter below her knees. She tries to hit the ball away.



The batter protects her legs with her racket and mustn't move her feet.

2 One of these two things happens next:

The batter's leg is hit by the ball and she is out...

... or the batter hits the ball. She has to pass the racket once around her body to score a point.





3 If the batter has hit the ball, the fielders chase it. If someone catches it, the batter is out. If a fielder picks up the ball, he can't move until he's thrown it at the batter. Whoever gets the batter out bats next. At the end, the person with the most points wins.

A to Z spotting

Play this game in a car or in a busy place. Everyone has to try to spot things that start with the letters of the alphabet. Agree which letters are too difficult (such as Q, X or Z) and leave them out.

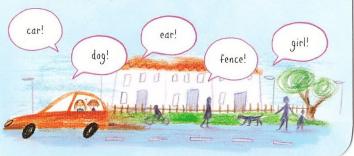
1 Everyone tries to spot something beginning with A. The first person to do so shouts out what they've spotted...



2 ...then everyone tries to spot something beginning with B.



3 Continue through the rest of the alphabet. If a letter takes too long, agree to move onto the next one.

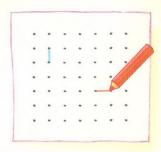


Making boxes

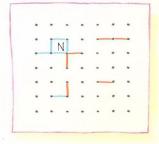
In this game, two people take turns to join dots to make boxes. You'll need paper and pens or pencils.

1 Draw seven rows of seven dots on a piece of paper.
One person draws a line between two dots, then the other person adds a line.

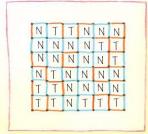
The lines must be horizontal or vertical, not diagonal.



2 Take turns adding lines. If someone makes a box when they add a line, they write their initial in the box. Then, they draw another line on the grid.



3 At the end of the game, count how many boxes each person has made. Whoever has the most boxes wins.



I'm going to...

1 Someone thinks of a place they might go to on a trip and the others have to guess where it is. It could be:

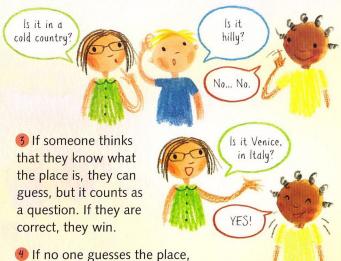


A beach in Australia...

...mountains in Switzerland...

...or somewhere closer to home.

2 Everyone else takes turns asking questions that can only be answered with *Yes* or *No*. They can ask a total of 12 questions.



the person who thought of it wins.

Quicksand



caught is 'it' in the next game.

Moon, stars, sky

In this game, everyone takes turns thinking of a word that links up with the word before.

1 Someone starts the game by saying a word:



2 Someone else thinks of a word that they associate with the first word, then they say it out loud:





3 Then the next person says a word that links up with the word that's just been said...

4 ... and everyone takes turns to add a word:



If anyone repeats a word, they're out. The game continues until only one person is left or someone can't think of a word.



Clapping catch

For this game, you'll need a ball. Each person has three lives.

1 Everyone stands a few paces from each other:



2 Someone throws the ball to someone else, shouting a number from 1 to 5 as they throw it. The other person has to clap that number of times before they catch it:



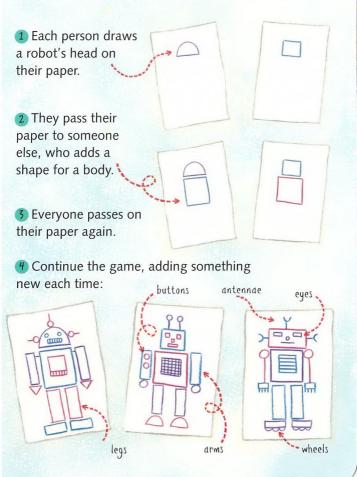
3 If they manage it, they throw the ball to the next person and shout a number. If not, they lose a life.



The last person still playing is the winner.

Robot drawing game

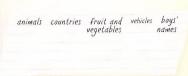
Everyone needs a piece of paper and a pen. If you're by yourself, use ideas from this card to draw a robot.



I've got five

Each person needs paper and a pen or a pencil.

1 Everyone agrees on five categories of things to think of. They all write them down:



2 One person thinks of a letter of the alphabet...



...and everyone has to write down something that begins with that letter in each category.



3 The first person to write something in every category shouts *I've got five!* and everyone stops writing. Add up everyone's scores, like this:

Correct answer - 2 points

Correct answer shared with someone else - 1 point

Shouting I've got five! - 2 bonus points

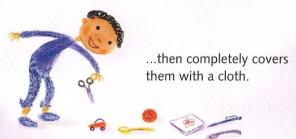
4 Everyone takes turns to think of a letter.

At the end, add up the scores to see who has won.

Memory game

To play this game, you'll need some objects, a cloth, some paper and pens or pencils.

1 One person goes into a room and everyone else waits outside. He puts several objects on the floor...



2 He lets the others in, then uncovers the objects. He gives everyone two minutes to try to remember what is there, then he covers the objects again.



3 Everyone writes down as many objects as they can remember. Whoever remembers the most wins.

Mixed-up answers

1 One person starts by saying a word. It can be absolutely anything...

2 The other person replies with a question that has the word as its answer.

What might you eat as a snack?



Cookie

3 The first person replies with a word that doesn't answer the question:



4 The other person has to think of a question that this new word could be the answer to.

Which pet do you take for a walk?



5 Continue until the second person makes a mistake or hesitates for too long. Then, change places and play again.

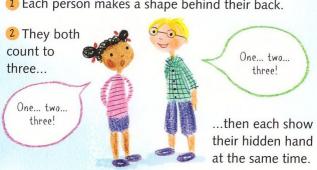


Hidden hands

In this game, two people try to win by showing each other one of these three hand shapes:



Each person makes a shape behind their back.



3 Any of the three hand shapes can win, depending on which one each person has chosen to do:



Scissors beat paper, because they cut it. because it wraps it.

Paper beats rock, Rock beats scissors, as it blunts them.

Play until someone has won five games.

Shark tag

Play this game on a sandy beach. Draw two wavy lines in the sand for coral reefs, about 20 paces apart.

1 One person is a shark, and everyone else is a fish. The shark stands in the ocean, and the fish run from reef to reef. The shark tries to 'tag' (touch) the fish, but can only do this when they're in the ocean.



2 When the shark tags a fish, that fish becomes another shark. Both sharks then chase the other fish.



3 Continue the game until there are no fish left.

Filling a pie

This is a memory game. Everyone has to add to a list of ingredients that are going into an imaginary pie.

1 Someone says...

When I bake a pie, I fill it with...

2 ...then they add an ingredient that isn't usually found in a pie, such as:



The next person repeats the phrase, and adds their own ingredient:

When I bake a pie, I fill it with ice cream... and lettuce...



Everyone takes turns adding ingredients, always saying them in the correct order:



5 If anyone forgets an ingredient or says the ingredients in the wrong order, they're out.

Story consequences

Each person needs a strip of paper and a pen.

1 Everyone starts by writing a word that could describe a man at the top of their paper.

of their paper...

2 ...then they fold over the paper, to hide the word.

3 Everyone passes on their paper to someone else...

...and the game continues in the same way. These are the things that everyone has to write next:

A man's name

MET... a word to describe a woman

A woman's name

AT... a place

HE SAID TO HER: a phrase

SHE SAID TO HIM: a phrase

THEN... an ending for the story

Handsome	
Prince Charming	
METbeautiful	
Snow White	
AT the skate park	-
HE SAID TO HER: What an amazing hat!	The same of the same of
SHE SAID TO HIM: I'm hungry	
THEN a blue camel plodded past	1000

Handsome

4 At the end, pass on the pieces of paper again, then unfold them and read the stories.

I don't spy

This game is the opposite of 'I spy'. It's a chance for people to use their imagination.

1 One person thinks of something that they can't see anywhere, such as a penguin.



2 They say, I don't spy with my little eye..., then give two clues: the kind of thing it is (bird) and its first letter (P).



3 Everyone else takes turns guessing what the first person is thinking of.



4 The first person to guess correctly thinks of another object and the game starts again.

Musical chairs

You need something that plays music and some chairs – one per person, minus one. Choose someone to be the music-maker but don't put out a chair for them.

1 Group the chairs together, then stand around them. The music-maker starts the music, and everyone else dances around the chairs.



2 Suddenly, the music-maker stops the music. Everyone else has to try to sit down on a chair. The person who doesn't get a chair is out.



- § Everyone stands up and one chair is taken away.
- The music starts again, and the game continues until there is only one chair left. When the music stops again, whoever is sitting on the chair is the winner.

Sardines



Snail trail

Play this game on a sandy beach. Draw a snail shell in damp sand (or on the ground with chalk), then add short lines to make boxes.

1 Hop around the shell, one box at a time.

Land on one foot and don't land on any lines, or you'll have to start again.

2 Jump onto 'Home' in the middle. Then, turn around and hop back to the start.

Jump onto this

box next time.

3 If you reach the start without landing on any lines, write your initials in one of the boxes.

Home

Start

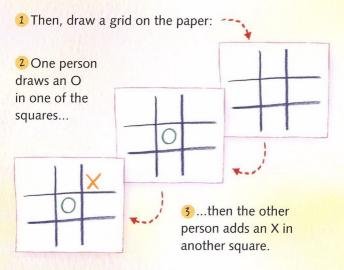
Land on

both feet.

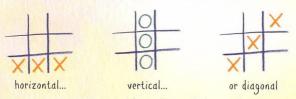
4 Hop around again, but jump onto the marked box with both feet. Continue hopping, jumping and writing your initials until you've filled all the boxes.

Grid game

To play this game, you'll need paper, and pens or pencils. First decide who draws O and who draws X.



4 Take turns adding Os and Xs.
The first to make a line of three is the winner:



If no one manages to make a line of three shapes, no one has won and the game is a draw.

Story-telling game

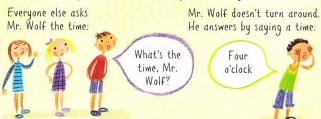
In this imagination game, everyone adds to a story, five words at a time.



When everyone wants to stop playing, someone has to think of a good way to end the story.

Mr. Wolf

1 Choose someone to be Mr. Wolf. He stands with his back to everyone else, twelve paces away from them.



2 As Mr. Wolf has said *Four o'clock*, everyone takes four steps forward, counting the steps out loud:



3 They stop and ask the time again. At any point, Mr. Wolf can turn around and shout *Dinner time!* instead of saying a time. He then chases everyone until he catches someone, who becomes the next Mr. Wolf.



4) If someone manages to reach Mr. Wolf and touch him before he shouts *Dinner time!*, everyone is safe and Mr. Wolf has to be Mr. Wolf again in the next game.

Ping bong

For this game, you need a ball, and someone to be the thrower. Each person has three lives. The noise *PING* means catch, and *BONG* means drop.

1 Everyone stands apart from each other, like this:









2 The thrower throws the ball to someone, shouting *PING* or *BONG* at the same time.



The catcher has to do what the noise means. If they get it wrong, they lose one of their three lives.

3 Return the ball back to thrower, and the game continues with the thrower throwing to people at random, until only one other person is left.

Treasure chase

Play this game on a sandy beach. Draw two big shapes for islands and form two teams. Put three objects for 'treasure' on each island for the teams to guard.





1 Each team has to try to steal a piece of the other team's treasure and bring it back to their own island.



² Continue playing until one team gets all three pieces of the other team's treasure back to their island.

Guess the letter

1 Someone thinks of a letter in the alphabet for everyone else to try to guess.

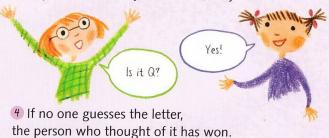


Say if you're thinking of a capital or 'little' letter.

2 Everyone else takes turns asking questions that can be answered *Yes* or *No*. They can ask a total of 10 questions between them, such as:



3 If someone thinks they know which letter it is, they can guess, as one of the 10 questions. If they're correct, they win. If not, they're out.



Stop, thief...

For this game, you need some coins or spoons in a sock, a chair and a scarf. Choose a guard and tie the scarf around their eyes. Then, place the sock under the chair.

1 The guard sits on the chair and everyone else stands in a line a little way away.







2 Someone tiptoes up to the chair, and tries to take the sock and return to the line without being heard.

3 If the guard thinks he hears a sound, he shouts *Stop!* and points to where he thinks the person is.



¶ If he's correct, that person is out. If not, the sock is put back and someone else tries to take them.

5 Take turns to try to take the sock. The last person still playing wins and is the next guard.

Shape drawings

For this drawing game, you'll need some paper and pens or pencils.

1 Someone chooses a shape, such as:















circle

triangle

square

diamond

oval

rectangle

Someone else thinks of a subject for everyone to draw. It can be absolutely anything, such as:









a house

a dog

d car

a fish

3 Everyone draws the subject, using only the shape that's been chosen:







You could fill in the drawings with pens or pencils.



A house drawn using diamonds



A dog drawn using squares



A car drawn using ovals



A fish drawn using triangles

Moo... Baa!

To play this game, make a circle facing each other.

1 Each person chooses an animal noise, then makes the noise, so that the others can hear how it sounds:



2 To start, one person makes their noise, then makes someone else's noise, too:





- 3 That person then makes their own noise, followed by another person's noise.
- The game continues with each player making their own noise, followed by someone else's:



If anyone makes the wrong noise, or makes the noises in the wrong order, they are out.

Copy me

To play this game, everyone has to face each other.

1 Someone starts by doing an action, such as:



Patting their stomach...

2 The next person repeats the action, then adds a new action of their own:





They pat their stomach... ... then scrunch their nose.

Everyone takes turns adding an action, always doing all the actions in the correct order.



Stomach pat



Nose scrunch

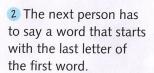


Hand clap

4 Anyone who forgets an action or does the actions in the wrong order is out.

Follow-on words

1 Someone starts by saying a word. It doesn't matter how long or short it is:





3 Take turns adding a new word.



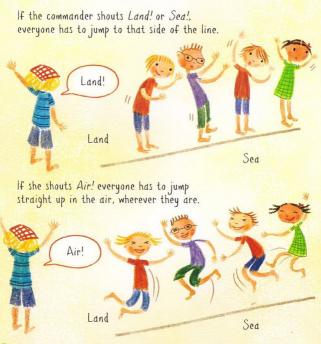
4 Play until someone can't think of a word, or everyone agrees that they want to stop.



Land, sea, air

To play this game, draw a line in the sand on a beach or on the ground with a chalk. One side of the line is the land and the other side is the sea.

1 Choose a commander, then stand with one foot on either side of the line. The commander stands at the end of the line and shouts instructions, as follows:



2 Anyone who touches the line or makes a mistake is out. The last person still playing is the winner.

What's my job?

1 Someone thinks of a job, but doesn't say what it is. It could be:



2 Everyone else tries to guess the job, taking turns asking questions that can be answered *Yes* or *No*. They can ask a total of 10 questions.



3 If someone thinks they know what the job is, they can guess. If they are correct, they win. If not, the guess counts as one of the 10 questions.

If no one guesses the job, the person who thought of it wins. Then, play again.



Party game

In this game, everyone takes turns thinking of things they'd bring to an imaginary party, such as:

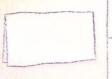


- ...and the game continues with each person repeating the list and adding something new.
- If someone forgets something, or says the wrong thing, they're out. The last person still playing wins.

Funny animals

Each person needs paper, and a pen or pencil.

1 Fold each piece of paper in half, then unfold it again:

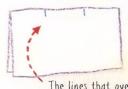




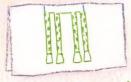


2 Draw the top half of an animal on the top half of the paper. Draw lines going over the fold a little, too.

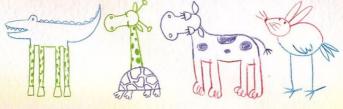
3 Fold back the top half of the paper to hide the drawing. Then, pass the paper to someone else.



The lines that overlap the fold will still show.



4 Draw the bottom half of an animal, then unfold each piece of paper to reveal an animal.



Question catch

For this game, you need a ball. Everyone spreads out to play the game, and each person has three lives.

1 One person thinks of a simple question to ask someone else:



What's a baby sheep called?

2 They say someone's name at random, then ask them the question and throw the ball to them.



The named person has to answer the question before or as they catch the ball. They lose a life if they answer wrongly or too late, or if they fail to catch the ball.



Gontinue to throw the ball from person to person and ask questions. The last person with any lives wins.

Spotting rhymes

1 Someone spots something, and says what it is. It could be:



2 Someone else thinks of a word that rhymes with the first word...



3 ...and the next person thinks of another word that rhymes with it:



4 Everyone takes turns thinking of rhyming words, until someone can't think of one.



5 For the next game, someone else spots something.

Winking killer

1 Play this game with as many people as possible. One person is a winking killer, and someone else is a detective. The killer winks at people to 'kill' them, but if the detective spots the killer winking at someone, the game is over.

2 One person is chosen to be the detective, then he leaves the room. Everyone else chooses someone to be the killer. The detective comes back in and everyone stands in a circle. Then the game begins:



Who am I?

1 To start, someone thinks of a person or a character that everyone knows, for the others to guess...



2 They give a clue about the person, and everyone else has one guess each:



3 If someone is correct, they think of a new person for the others to guess. If no one guesses correctly, they are given another clue:



4 Continue playing until someone guesses who the person is, then play again.

Build a ship

For this guessing game, you'll need paper and a pen.

- 1 One person thinks of a word and draws a short line for each letter on the paper, like this:
- 2 The other person guesses a letter that they think could be in the word.

If the letter is in the word, the first person writes it in the correct place...

...but if it isn't, he draws the first part of a ship and writes the letter to the side, like this:

___0___

___ A

3 The game continues with the first person filling in letters or adding to the ship, in the following stages:



4 The second person can try to guess the word at any time. If they're correct, they win. If they're wrong, another part is added to the ship. The first person wins if they finish drawing the whole ship.

Dodge the ball

To play this game, you'll need a soft ball, and lots of space. Agree the boundaries of your playing area, and choose someone to be the thrower.

1 The thrower stands still in the middle of the playing area and everyone else runs around.



2 The thrower throws the ball at everyone else's legs. If someone is hit below the knee, they're out.



3 The thrower collects the ball and continues throwing until everyone's out. The last person to be out is the thrower in the next game.